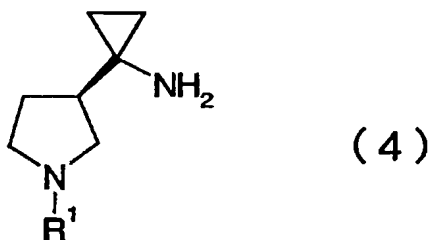


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

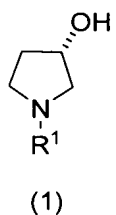
Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an optically active compound represented by formula (4), or a salt thereof, ~~[[:]]~~

~~[F2]~~

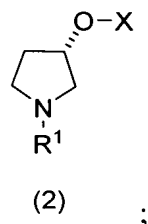


wherein R¹ represents a protecting group ~~for the amino group, or a salt thereof~~, the process comprising:

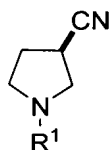
reacting a compound of formula (1)



with an alkylsulfonyl chloride or an arylsulfonyl chloride, in the presence of a base, to form a compound of formula (2)



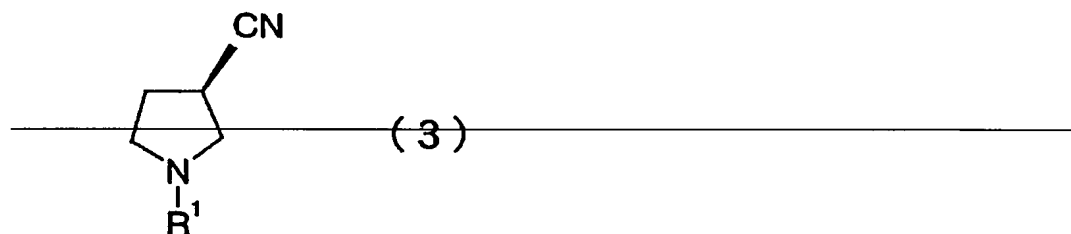
reacting the compound of formula (2) with a cyanating agent to form a compound of formula (3)



(3) ; and

reacting the compound of formula (3) with an alkyl metal compound, a titanium (IV) reagent, and optionally a Lewis acid, to form the compound of formula (4), or a salt thereof;
~~characterized in that a reagent prepared from an titanium(IV) reagent and an alkylmetal compound is reacted with an optically active compound represented by formula (3):~~

~~—[F1]~~



~~wherein R¹ has the same meaning as defined above, optionally in the presence of a Lewis acid.~~

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the titanium(IV) reagent is a titanium(IV) alkoxide.

Claim 3 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the titanium(IV) reagent is titanium(IV) tetraisopropoxide, methyltitanium(IV) triisopropoxide, or chlorotitanium(IV) triisopropoxide.

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkylmetal compound is an ethylmetal compound.

Claim 5 (Original): The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkylmetal compound is an alkyl Grignard reagent or a dialkylzinc.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 5, comprising the alkyl Grignard reagent, wherein the alkyl Grignard reagent is an ethyl Grignard reagent.

Claim 7 (Original): The process according to claim 6, wherein the ethyl Grignard reagent is ethylmagnesium chloride or ethylmagnesium bromide.

Claim 8 (Original): The process according to claim 7, wherein the ethyl Grignard reagent is ethylmagnesium bromide.

Claim 9 (Original): The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkylmetal compound is diethylzinc.

Claims 10-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (New): The process of claim 1, comprising reacting the compound of formula (3) with an alkyl metal compound, a titanium (IV) reagent, and a Lewis acid, to form the compound of formula (4), or a salt thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The process of claim 1,
wherein the alkylsulfonyl chloride is selected from the group consisting of
methanesulfonyl chloride and trifluoromethanesulfonyl chloride;
wherein the arylsulfonyl chloride is selected from the group consisting of
phenylsulfonyl chloride and p-toluenesulfonyl chloride;
wherein the cyanating agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium cyanide,
potassium cyanide, and tetrabutylammonium cyanide;
wherein the titanium (IV) reagent is selected from the group consisting of titanium
(IV) tetraisopropoxide, methyltitanium (IV) triisopropoxide, and chlorotitanium (IV)
triisopropoxide;
wherein the Lewis acid is selected from the group consisting of trifluoroboron,
aluminum chloride, and lithium iodide;
wherein the alkyl metal compound is selected from the group consisting of ethyl
magnesium chloride, ethyl magnesium bromide, and diethyl zinc; and
wherein the protecting group is selected from the group consisting of tert-
butoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichlorocarbonyl,
benzyloxycarbonyl, paramethoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, paranitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, formyl,
acetyl, propanoyl, tert-butyloyl, pivaloyl, benzoyl, benzyl, α -methylbenzyl, trityl,
diphenylmethyl(benzhydryl), paranitrobenzyl, paramethoxybenzyl, phenethyl,
methoxyphenyl, and tert-butoxycarbonylamino.

Claim 18 (New): The process of claim 17, wherein the base is triethylamine.

Claim 19 (New): The process of claim 17, comprising the Lewis acid.

Claim 20 (New): The process of claim 17, comprising the arylsulfonyl chloride.

Claim 21 (New): The process of claim 17, comprising the alkylsulfonyl chloride.